

Community Charge

An Anti-War Newsletter

FREE

ISSUE #3

FEB. 16 - MARCH 1

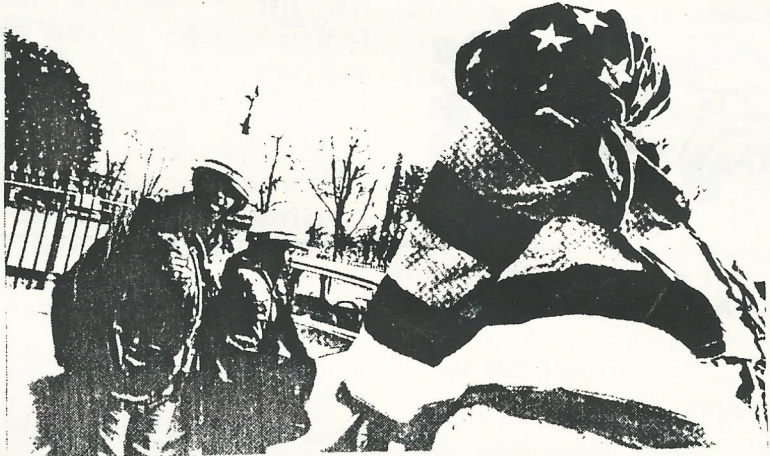


PALESTINIANS UNDER SIEGE

While the U.S. wages war on Iraq, Israel is still continuing it's 40 odd year, racist war on the Palestinians. Since the start of the gulf war, Israel has been imposing one of the strictest curfews ever, in occupied Palestine. Over 1.7 million Palestinians are not allowed onto the streets except to buy occasional groceries.

Until Feb 19th., 40,000 students were not allowed to go to school and most are still in that position. The curfew has prevented many Palestinians from going to work or to tend their crops. This has led to crop failures and a lack of money to buy groceries or other necessities.

Israel's occupying armies have shot at, and killed Palestinians for opening windows and gathering on the street. On February 16th., 'security' forces shot and wounded 14, and seriously beat 16 others for demonstrating against the curfew. On the 14th., the army demolished two homes owned by who they claimed were, but could not prove, PLO spies. Three homes were also sealed up, and the occupants removed for 'security' reasons. (3/2)



ANTI-WAR RESISTANCE

FEB. 7th - Paraguay had one of it's largest daily demonstrations, thousands participated in a very anti-american atmosphere

-10,000 Muslims march through the streets of the Philippines, burning portraits of George-Bush

-8,000 protestors come out to meet George Bush at the New York Hilton, where he addressed the 'rich' business community

-tens of thousands of demonstrators fill the streets of Monte Video in Uruguay

-several thousand to the same in Lima, Peru

FEB. 9th - 2,000-4,000 march in Harlem against the war

-an alternative energy bicycle race was held in New York City

-40-50 youth participate in Oakville, Ont. first illegal march

FEB. 14th - various people banging drums and chanting, met George Bush in Kennebunkport, Maine

-Action for Social Change, organize a blockade of the Hamilton recruitment centre, several were arrested.

-Jordanians hurled stones at the U.S. embassy and U.N. Offices, they also harassed Western media. They were dispersed by riot police.

-50 people gathered at the Pentagon digging mock graves and spraying red on the building to symbolize blood, 13 were arrested.

-the leftist urban guerrilla group RAF, machine gunned the U.S. embassy in Bonn

-two bombs exploded outside war related buildings in Athens

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RESISTANCE Continues...

FEB. 16th - thousands demonstrate in Indonesia, outside U.S., French, and British embassies
-3,000 demonstrate outside U.S. embassy in London

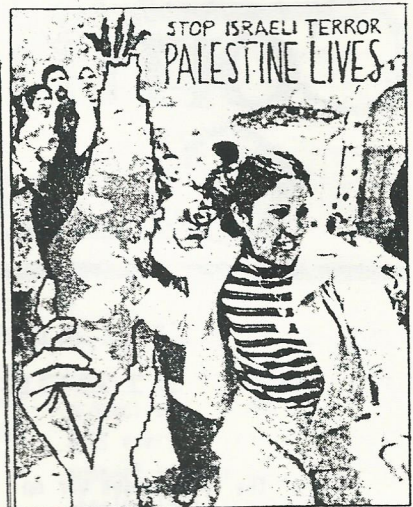
FEB. 17th - a demonstration in New York City bring out a few thousand



FEB. 19th - Greenpeace organize a demo outside the Federal building in Hamilton, to protest the funding of the war.

FEB. 20th - grenades were thrown at British, Turkish and Italian embassies in Tehran

FEB. 21st - Australian Stock Exchange blockaded and hosed down with water cannons by a demonstration of mostly students, 4 arrests were made for burning flags



PALESTINIAN Continued...

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A PLO spokesperson claimed that 24,000 Palestinians were being used as a human shield around Israeli chemical and nuclear weapon sites, which have been deemed a violation of international law. Since the bombing of Baghdad, the Israeli army has kept over 13,000 Palestinians in jail, without a trial. All of this goes on while the U.S. claims it is defending world 'democracy'.

Media reports on the present Palestinian situation have been almost non-existent. Some television stations showed Palestinian workers being allowed into Israel to work, and took this to be the end of the curfew. The few workers who were allowed in were going to work because of the imminent crop failure facing a large percentage of Israel's agricultural areas. Palestinians are the mainstay of farm labour-

ers, much like Mexican Americans in California. Palestinians are usually considered better workers than the Eastern European students, presently employed. They are also payed considerably less.

The U.S. claims it went to war to liberate Kuwait, to uphold U.N. resolutions. Yet when Israel refused to acknowledge the U.N. resolution condemning them for massacring 17 Palestinians in Jerusalem, on Oct. 8, 1990, the U.S. did not act. Israel refused to allow a U.N. investigative envoy to look at conditions of Palestinians and investigate why the massacre occurred. Once the war started, the U.S. removed its vote from the resolution condemning Israel.

George Bush continually states that the gulf war is to save world democracy and stop Iraq from invading foreign lands.

Fighting for 'democracy' U.S. style, means invading Panama and

Grenada. For the U.S. defending democracy has meant funding and training death squads in El Salvador, and the Contras in Nicaragua, where 30,000 were killed.

Democracy means destabilizing popular governments and peoples movements and replacing them with dictators. Liberation means funding and helping arm Israel in it's invasion and occupation of Palestine, forcing dislocation and second-class citizenship on Palestinians. The list of atrocities committed by amerikkka, while fighting for its style of democracy is far more extensive than this.

The anti-war movement needs to start publicizing the contradictions of the 'allied' forces foreign policies. We need to start supporting the people of Palestine in their fight for liberation, from the 'Gestapo' like Israeli forces. Lessons will be learnt from this war. Let's hope that one of them is, that no government will liberate us or others, as we have seen from the inaction in Palestine.

'I thought they were Iraqi?'

In recent weeks there has been a rash of attacks targeted at the Arab and Jewish communities. These abuses have come in many forms, namely vandalism. Although vandalism has been the most common assault, situations have escalated to much worse.

In Blissfield, Michigan a Dairy Queen franchise owned by a Palestinian-American was vandalized by someone who spray-painted, 'USA No.1' on the side of the building. Three days later the building was burnt to the ground by arsonists.

Actions such as these, have alarmed many Arab people who in some communities fear for their lives. In Lakeland, Florida an east Indian family received several threatening phone calls from someone who promised to drop a bomb on their house. The caller's threats finally materialized when a pipebomb was thrown at the family's garage. A 15 year old highschool student was later apprehended for the incident, he mistakenly believed the family was Iraqi. Perhaps he was too busy saluting his flag to figure out the difference between Iraq and India.

Threats have escalated to physical violence. Iraj Rastami, editor of the Iranian-American newspaper Iran News, was shot at twice by masked gunmen in the streets of San Francisco. Rastami was later taken to the hospital, but was not seriously wounded.

Assaults have not been limited to the Arab community. Many Jewish schools and synagogues have received bomb threats since the outbreak of the war. The assault on the Jewish community brings in an inherent racist dimension. Popular media has not portrayed Israel as the enemy, on the contrary they are supposed to be 'allies'. This is where anti-semitism outsteps patriotism. Unless of course it's that kid from Lakeland, Florida.

American white supremacist, Tom Metzger told his neo-nazi followers to file as conscientious objectors. They should not as Metzger most eloquently put it, fight 'for Jews or camel-jockeys and sand-niggers'. We need only to look back at the defacing of Jewish cemeteries in Toronto, this summer to realise that anti-semitism has not gone away.

An unfortunate part about these assaults is the psychological terror, it plays on the victims. Many Arab people who have been the victims of threats and vandalism, do not report the incidents. Most are scared of the attention the publicity will bring, stirring up even more racial hatred, and more problems.

What is even more unfortunate, is that if a ground war begins, soldiers will be sure to come back in body bags. This will guarantee that the hatred and violence directed towards the Arab and Jewish communities will escalate.

T.V.



MANIPULATION

The images we see on television and at the movies, affect our ideas and opinions of different cultures. These forms of entertainment create stereotypical roles of other cultures in our minds.

For many years the movies have generally characterised Arab people as the 'bad' guys, such as in "Lawrence of Arabia" in 1962. In 1977, "Black Sunday" was one of the first of the Arab-terrorist thriller genre. Here Arabs were shown as violence-prone pariahs of the civilized world. Other movies such as, "Dead or Alive", "Iron Eagle" and "Death before Dishonor" also portray cartoon character, Arab terrorists that serve only to be shown up by the white male movie hero.

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RELATED NEWS

GERMANY - 22,000 Germans have claimed conscientious objector status, this is up 330% since the war began. 13,000 of the objectors are currently in the army reserves.

ISRAEL - Palestinians shut-down East-Jerusalem on Feb. 16th., by calling a general strike. The strike was in response to the murder of a 14 year old Palestinian, by Israeli soldiers.

NEW YORK CITY - groups investigating inaccuracy in the news media, held a rally outside the ABC Network building.

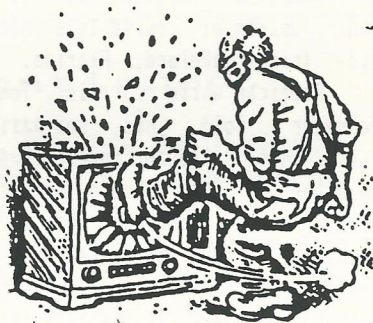
MANIPULATION Continued...

Filmmakers seem to have taken very few pains to portray Arabs in a realistic way. Most of what we see and believe to be true characteristics of Arab people are usually prejudiced and inaccurate. This portrayal only makes it easier for someone like Bush to bring forth these images and prejudices when it serves his purpose, as in this current war.

Advertisements are another way that we are swayed into believing things. For the first time since the 1988 elections, companies have hauled out their patriotic ads. Throughout the first week of the war CNN ran an ad with men and women in uniform preparing for combat, it was set to the tune, "America the beautiful". This ad was sponsored by Boeing, which supplies many weapons systems now being used in the war, such as AWACS, B-52's, K613S tankers and Avenger air defense systems. Boeing has received hundreds of approving phone calls since this ad has been run. Raytheon, which makes the Patriot missile has also received tremendous support since the beginning of the war.

Another company has also started running special ads since the start of the war, this company

is Texaco. Their ad states, 'How can you stop America's growing dependance on foreign oil?'. The ad is a plug to get a tune up at Texaco. These advertisements show the way advertisers are using the war to increase their dividends, and they also show how people can be persuaded into buying from, and supporting companies that are actively involved in killing thousands of innocent people.



Large sporting events are another form of manipulation seen on the television. This year's Superbowl half time show, began with a child singing a song for the troops, small american flags were held by almost all the spectators. The player's knelt in salute to God, their country, and the children of military service people, 'representing

everyone of the fifty states' who were marched out onto the field.

It is interesting to note that only one black face could be seen among these children, even though blacks make up 20% of the U.S. army.

The half time show ended with a large aerial shot that showed USA spelled out on the field with human figures. This type of production makes it appear that everyone in the States is in support of the war, and there is absolutely no opposition.

All of this shows how glorified the war has become. Television has made the war surreal, which makes it easy for people to support this racist war, since it is against 'terrorist' Arabs.

The war has been a great boost for the amerikan military economy and for promoting patriotism in the States. These forms of entertainment only prove how much of a manipulator television and the movies really are.

COMMUNITY CHARGE is an alternative information collective, based on breaking the media black-out of anti-war resistance. As well, we will provide an analysis on the true nature of this conflict. To contact us write to:

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